

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 1. (currently amended) A voice portal hosting system,
2 intended to be connected to a first voice telecommunication
3 network in order for a plurality of users in said network to
4 establish a connection with said system using voice equipment,
5 said system comprising:

6 a memory in which a plurality of interactive voice
7 response applications providing interactive voice
8 response functionality is stored, each of said
9 applications including an executable component for
10 execution by said hosting system; and
11 uploading means for independently uploading said
12 plurality of interactive voice response applications
13 through a second telecommunication network by a
14 plurality of independent value-added service
15 providers, wherein

16 at least a plurality of said ~~plurality of~~ interactive
17 voice response applications use[[s]] a common speech
18 recognition module, which includes user-specific
19 speech models, for executing on said system ~~and for~~
20 ~~utilizing common speech models associated with said~~
21 ~~users~~, and further wherein

22 said system is adapted to execute one or more of said
23 voice response applications when one of said users
24 calls said system.

1 2. (original) The voice portal hosting system of claim 1,
2 wherein said common speech recognition module comprises a
3 common user profile database.

1 3. (original) The voice portal hosting system of claim 2,
2 wherein said common user profile database includes user
3 preferences.

1 4. (original) The voice portal hosting system of claim 3,
2 wherein said user preferences include a delivery address for
3 goods and/or services ordered with said value-added service
4 providers.

1 5. (original) The voice portal hosting system of claim 3,
2 wherein said user preferences include a billing address and/or
3 preferences for goods and services ordered with said value-
4 added service providers.

1 6. (canceled).

1 7. (original) The voice portal hosting system of claim 6,
2 comprising means for adapting said common speech models
3 associated to a user during each dialogue between said user
4 and each of said interactive voice response applications.

1 8. (original) The voice portal hosting system of claim 7,
2 wherein said means for adapting said common speech models uses
3 recorded users' speech samples for adapting said common speech
4 models off-line.

1 9. (original) The voice portal hosting system of claim 1,
2 wherein said common speech recognition module uses Hidden

3 Markov Models, and further comprising a Hidden Markov Models
4 adaptation module for adapting said models to said user.

1 10. (original) The voice portal hosting system of claim
2 9, wherein said Hidden Markov Models adaptation module allows
3 for an incremental adaptation of said models.

1 11. (original) The voice portal hosting system of claim
2 1, wherein said common speech recognition module uses user-
3 specific language models.

1 12. (original) The voice portal hosting system of claim
2 11, comprising means for adapting said common language models
3 associated to a user during each dialogue between said user
4 and each of said interactive voice response applications.

1 13. (original) The voice portal hosting system of claim
2 1, wherein said common speech recognition module uses
3 selections previously made by said users.

1 14. (previously presented) The voice portal hosting
2 system of claim 13, wherein said selections previously made by
3 said users are stored in said voice portal hosting system for
4 improving the arborescence of the menus.

1 15. (original) The voice portal hosting system of claim
2 1, wherein at least a plurality of said interactive voice
3 response applications use a common user identification module
4 run on said system.

1 16. (original) The voice portal hosting system of claim
2 15, wherein said user identification module uses an

3 identification of the equipment used by said user in said
4 first telecommunication network.

1 17. (original) The voice portal hosting system of claim
2 16, being operated by a telecom operator of said first
3 telecommunication network, wherein said user identification
4 module uses an identification of the equipment used by said
5 user in said first telecommunication network even when said
6 identification is not available for the other B-subscribers of
7 said first telecommunication network.

1 18. (original) The voice portal hosting system of claim
2 15, wherein said user identification module uses a voice-based
3 user identification module.

1 19. (original) The voice portal hosting system of claim
2 15, wherein said common speech recognition module uses a
3 speaker-dependant speech recognition algorithm, wherein said
4 speaker is identified by said common user identification
5 module.

1 20. (original) The voice portal hosting system of claim
2 1, wherein at least a plurality of said interactive voice
3 response applications use a common billing module and a common
4 clearing center for dispatching the collected amounts to said
5 value-added service providers.

1 21. (original) The voice portal hosting system of claim
2 20, wherein said common billing module allows for the billing
3 of transactions between said users and said value-added
4 service providers on a common bill prepared by the operator of
5 said voice portal hosting system.

1 22. (original) The voice portal hosting system of claim
2 20, wherein at least a plurality of said users have a deposit
3 account on said voice portal hosting system which can be used
4 for transactions with a plurality of said value-added service
5 providers.

1 23. (original) The voice portal hosting system of claim
2 1, wherein at least a plurality of said interactive voice
3 response applications use a user authentication module based
4 on an electronic signature and/or on biometric parameters of
5 said users.

1 24. (original) The voice portal hosting system of claim
2 1, wherein said second telecommunication network is a TCP/IP
3 network.

1 25. (original) The voice portal hosting system of claim
2 24, wherein at least some of said interactive voice response
3 applications are described with Voice extensible Markup
4 Language documents.

1 26. (original) The voice portal hosting system of claim
2 25, wherein a compilation module run on said system compiles
3 said interactive voice response applications.

1 27. (original) The voice portal hosting system of claim
2 1, wherein at least one free interactive voice response
3 application is made available by the operator of said system.

1 28. (original) The voice portal hosting system of claim
2 27, wherein said free interactive voice response application
3 includes a free directory assistance service.

1 29. (currently amended) A voice portal hosting system,
2 intended to be connected to a first voice telecommunication
3 network in order for a plurality of users in said network to
4 establish a connection with said system using voice equipment,
5 said system comprising a memory in which a plurality of
6 interactive voice response applications, each including an
7 executable component for execution by said hosting system, for
8 providing interactive voice response functionality and that
9 have been independently uploaded through a second
10 telecommunication network by a plurality of independent value-
11 added service providers, wherein at least a plurality of said
12 interactive voice response applications uses a common speech
13 recognition module run on said system, wherein said common
14 speech recognition module comprises a common user profile
15 database including user preferences, wherein said common
16 speech recognition module further uses common user-specific
17 speech models, and further wherein said system is adapted to
18 execute one or more of said voice response applications when
19 one of said users calls said system; and still further wherein
20 said system further comprises means for adapting said common
21 speech models associated to a user during each dialogue
22 between said user and each of said interactive voice response
23 applications.

1 30. (currently amended) A method for allowing each of a
2 plurality of value-added service providers to set up an
3 interactive voice response application including an executable
4 component for execution by a voice portal hosting system
5 commonly used by said plurality of value-added service
6 providers, said voice response application for being used by a
7 plurality of users, comprising the steps of:

8 independently uploading said interactive voice response
9 applications which provide interactive voice
10 response functionality through a second
11 telecommunication network in said voice portal
12 hosting system, at least a plurality of said
13 applications using a common speech recognition
14 module for executing on said hosting system and for
15 utilizing common user-specific speech models
16 associated with said users; and
17 executing one or more of said voice response applications
18 when one of said users calls said system.

1 31. (original) The method of claim 30, wherein said
2 interactive voice response applications use a common user
3 profile database stored in said voice portal hosting system.

1 32. (original) The method of claim 31, wherein said
2 interactive voice response applications use user preferences
3 stored in said common user profile database.

1 33. (original) The method of claim 32, wherein said user
2 preferences include a delivery address for goods and/or
3 services ordered with said value-added service providers.

1 34. (original) The method of claim 33, wherein said user
2 preferences include a billing address and/or preferences for
3 goods and/or services ordered with said value-added service
4 providers.

1 35. (original) The method of claim 34, wherein said
2 common speech recognition module uses common users' speech
3 models.

1 36. (original) The method of claim 35, wherein said
2 common speech models associated to a user are adapted during
3 each dialogue between said users and each of said interactive
4 voice response applications.

1 37. (original) The method of claim 30, wherein said
2 common speech recognition module uses common users' language
3 models.

1 38. (original) The method of claim 37, wherein said
2 common language models associated to a user are adapted during
3 each dialogue between said user and each of said interactive
4 voice response applications.

1 39. (original) The method of claim 30, wherein at least a
2 plurality of said interactive voice response applications uses
3 a common user identification module run on said system.

1 40. (original) The method of claim 39, wherein said user
2 identification module uses an identification of the equipment
3 used by said user in said first telecommunication network.

1 41. (original) The method of claim 40, wherein said voice
2 portal hosting system is operated by a telecom operator of
3 said first telecommunication network, wherein said user
4 identification module uses an identification of the equipment
5 used by said user in said first telecommunication network even
6 when said identification is not available for the other B-
7 subscribers of said first telecommunication network.

1 42. (original) The method of claim 39, wherein said user
2 identification module uses a voice-based speaker
3 identification module.

1 43. (original) The method of claim 39, wherein said
2 common speech recognition module uses a speaker-dependant
3 speech recognition algorithm, said user being identified by
4 said common user identification module.

1 44. (original) The method of claim 30, wherein at least a
2 plurality of said interactive voice response applications use
3 a common billing module and a common clearing center for
4 dispatching the collected amounts to said value-added service
5 providers.

1 45. (original) The method of claim 44, wherein said
2 common billing module allows for the billing of transactions
3 between said users and said value-added service providers on a
4 common bill prepared by the operator of said voice portal
5 hosting system.

1 46. (original) The method of claim 44, wherein at least a
2 plurality of said users have a deposit account on said system
3 which can be used for transactions with a plurality of said
4 value-added service providers.

1 47. (original) The method of claim 30, wherein at least a
2 plurality of said interactive voice response applications use
3 a user authentication module based on an electronic signature
4 and/or on biometric parameters of said users.

1 48. (original) The method of claim 30, wherein at least
2 some of said interactive voice response applications are
3 described with Voice extensible Markup Language documents.

1 49. (original) The method of claim 48, wherein a
2 compilation module run on said voice portal hosting system
3 compiles said interactive voice response applications.

1 50. (currently amended) Method for allowing each of a
2 plurality of independent value-added service providers to set
3 up an interactive voice response applications each including
4 an executable component for execution by a voice portal
5 hosting system commonly used by said plurality of value-added
6 service providers and which can be used by a plurality of
7 users, comprising:

8 independently uploading said interactive voice response
9 applications which provide interactive voice
10 response functionality through a second
11 telecommunication network to said voice portal
12 hosting system, and

13 executing one or more of said voice response applications
14 when one of said users calls said system; wherein
15 at least a plurality of said applications use a common
16 speech recognition module for executing by said
17 voice portal hosting system, and wherein
18 said common speech recognition module uses common user-
19 specific users¹ speech models, and wherein
20 said common speech models are associated to a user and
21 are adapted during each dialogue between said users
22 and any of said interactive voice response
23 applications.

1 51. (original) Computer program product directly loadable
2 into the internal memory of a digital computer, comprising
3 software code portions for performing the steps of one of the
4 claims 30 to 50 when said product is run on a server connected
5 to a first telecommunication network.